

FRASER HEALTH OVERDOSE EMERGENCY PUBLIC REPORT – MARCH 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fraser Health and its partners are working hard to reduce opioid/fentanyl-related overdoses, including the following:

- A regional overdose prevention site conference was held, with an opening by BC Housing and Fraser Health, and over 100 attendees.
- The Community Action Knowledge Exchange Day took place in Surrey, with members from 12 communities attending to discuss their projects, and a keynote address from Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Judy Darcy.
- The Partners in Resilience Forum hosted by the Ridge Meadows Community Action Team brought together people who use drugs, family members, friends, first responders, service providers, health professionals, students, teachers, drug user groups, businesses, academics, community associations, artists, youth workers and others to hear interactive panels on a range of topics from drug policy to harm reduction to advocacy with opportunity for dialogue.

FATAL OVERDOSES

According to the BC Coroners Service, there were 27 suspected illicit drug overdose deaths in Fraser Health in January 2019, compared with 41 in December 2018. However, it is too early to tell whether a continued decrease in the number of deaths will be seen in coming months.

Table 1: Suspected illicit drug overdose deaths within Fraser Health, January 2018 to January 2019

Community [^]	Jan 2019	Projected 2019*	2018	% change (2019* vs. 2018)
Abbotsford	2	24	40	-40
Burnaby	2	24	46	-48
Chilliwack	4	48	35	37
Delta	1	12	21	-43
Langley (City & Township)	4	48	32	50
Maple Ridge	3	36	28	29
New Westminster	1	12	35	-66
Surrey	8	96	213	-55
Other communities	2	24	63	-62
Fraser Health	27	324	513	-37
BC	90	1,080	1,510	-28

Data Source: BC Coroners Service Public Report to January 2019.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers include both open and closed cases.

Illicit drug overdose deaths reported by BC Coroners Service include illicit drug overdoses involving street drugs (heroin, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, etc.), medications that were not prescribed to the deceased, combinations of the above, with prescribed medications, and those overdoses where the origin of drug is not known.

[^]Community assigned based on location of overdose and if that is missing, location of death.

*Projected based on available months for 2019.

OVERDOSES ATTENDED BY BC AMBULANCE

In February 2019, BC Ambulance Services responded to 603 overdoses across Fraser Health, compared to 599 in January 2019. The majority of overdoses year to date occurred among males (72%) and people aged 19 to 39 years (56%), and 26% of persons declined transportation to medical services from BC Ambulance.

Table 2: Suspected overdose events attended by BC Ambulance Service within Fraser Health, January 2018 to February 2019

Community [^]	2019*			2018		Rate change 2019* vs. 2018
	Feb (Avg. past 12 months~)	Jan-Feb	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Feb	Jan-Dec	Rate per 100,000 Jan-Dec	
Abbotsford	114 (66.2)	233	1,169	660	552	112
Agassiz / Harrison	<5 (<5)	<5	292	33	402	-27
Burnaby	44 (45.0)	96	273	531	251	8
Chilliwack	59 (42.6)	98	711	484	585	21
City of Langley	12 (16.1)	25	668	190	846	-21
Coquitlam	28 (31.5)	73	364	375	312	17
Delta	17 (16.9)	28	190	211	238	-20
Hope	<5 (<5)	5	460	41	628	-27
Maple Ridge	32 (31.5)	70	602	346	496	21
Mission	26 (17.4)	56	914	182	495	85
New Westminster	30 (25.7)	50	453	305	461	-2
Pitt Meadows	<5 (<5)	<5	114	21	133	-14
Port Coquitlam	15 (14.8)	34	406	155	309	32
Port Moody / Anmore / Belcarra	7 (5.3)	15	318	53	187	70
South Surrey / White Rock	10 (15.6)	26	186	187	222	-17
Surrey	188 (189.7)	346	526	2,261	573	-8
Township of Langley	17 (19.4)	40	243	219	222	10
Fraser Health	603 (545.8)	1,202	472	6,254	410	15

Data source: Patient Care Record data from BC Emergency Health Services. Restricted to those 13 years of age or older.

Preliminary data, numbers subject to change. Numbers for the most recent month are likely an underestimate and will increase as entry of BC Ambulance Patient Care Form is completed.

Suspected overdose events include those associated with opioids, stimulants, hallucinogens, and unspecified substance.

[^]Community assigned based on location where the paramedics attended to the suspected overdose event.

*Rate annualized based on available months for 2019.

~Average of past 12 months, including the most recent month.

Counts under five are reported as <5 as they are potentially identifiable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For more information on Fraser Health's response to the overdose public health emergency, go to <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/overdose>.
- For information on the provincial response to the public health emergency, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/our-services/programs/overdose-response>
- To access reports from the BC Coroners Service on illicit drug fatalities, click [here](#).